

MELTHAM

Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1939.

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Dudd House,
Meltham.
October, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Meltham Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Public Health Officers of the Council during the year were:—

Dr. Robert Gellatly, M.D.C.M., Medical Officer of Health;
Mr. R. G. Suddick, Sanitary Inspector.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one. The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council and devotes his whole time to the duties of those offices.

A contribution to the salaries of the Officers is made by the County Council under arrangement with the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the district is 5,906 acres.

POPULATION.—The population at the 1931 Census of Meltham Urban District was 5,051, and the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population of the district at the middle of 1939 is 5,003.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939, according to the Rate Book, was 1,731.

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1939, was £28,422, and a penny rate produced £111 10s. 7d. for 1939.

The principal industries now carried on in the district are engineering, woollen manufacture, silk dressing, brick making, mixed farming and poultry keeping. The industries carried on in the district cannot be said to be detrimental to the health of those engaged therein.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Comparability figure 0.97 equal to a population of 4,995)

LIVE BIRTHS...	{	Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion 12.2		
		Legitimate...	60	28		32	
		Illegitimate.	1	1	0		
STILL BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	6	4	2	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births) Births 89.552.	
		Illegitimate	0	0	0		
DEATHS	79	33	46	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 15.8

The Births for 1939 show a decrease from the year 1938 and Deaths have increased.

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

					Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	0	...	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	1	...	14.925
Total	...	...	1	...	14.925

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	4	1	3
Legitimate	...	...	4	1	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	—

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	65.57
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	66.67
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

The causes of death were:—

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Parat. Fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	2	1
Enceph. Lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of Resp. System... ..	1	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0
Syphilis	2	0
G.P.I., Tabes, &c.	0	0
Cancer	4	5
Diabetes	0	4
Cerebral Hæm., &c.	2	3
Heart Disease	15	14
Aneurysm... ..	0	0
Other Circulatory Disorders	1	2
Bronchitis... ..	0	3
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	0	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	0
Peptic Ulcer	0	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	0	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis... ..	0	0
Other Puerperal Diseases	0	1
Con. Deb., Prem. Birth, &c.	1	2
Senility	0	1
Suicide	0	1
Other Violence	2	0
Other Defined Diseases	1	5
Ill Defined	0	0
	<hr/> 33	<hr/> 46

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no developments or changes since my last Annual Report.

Water Supply.

During the year the water supply has been satisfactory and adequate, the consumption being 54,530,000 gallons.

The Council's supply was analysed 26 times during the year, and, on the information gained from the Analyst's reports, the Council placed a contract for the installation of a Filtration and Hardening plant. The water will also be chlorinated.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The sewage works have been found to be overloaded at times during the year, but in the present situation no costly extensions are contemplated.

Rivers and Streams.

No action found necessary in regard to pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

Ten conversions during the year. The closets of each type remaining at the end of 1939 are:—

	Total.	Private.	Common.
Water Closets ...	1072	873	199
Earth Closets ...	143	70	73
Tub Closets ...	168	108	60
	<u>1383</u>	<u>1051</u>	<u>332</u>

The Council supply ash bins on request to property owners at a small margin above cost price, and in approved cases make a grant of £2 and free ash bin where owners convert to water closet.

Public Cleansing.

Amount of refuse removed during year ... 1849 tons.

Mileage covered by cleansing waggon ... 6068

The refuse is disposed of at the Wood Bottom tip on the controlled system.

The total cost of removal and disposal of the refuse for the past year was £865 17s. 3d.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

INSPECTIONS. NATURE.	Number.	NOTICES.			
		Informal.	Formal.	Complied with.	Outstanding at end of year.
Infectious Diseases....	3	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	6	—	—	—	—
Ordinary Nuisances ..	94	42	—	40	2
Dwellings	148	38	—	36	2
Cowsheds	143	3	—	3	—
Bakehouses	45	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	317	—	—	—	—
Privies and Pail Closets	115	10	—	10	—
Workshops, Workplaces	62	6	—	6	—
Schools	4	—	—	—	—
Disinfestation	71	5	—	5	—

Shops Act. Ventilation and Temperature.

The usual inspections have been made, and no action found necessary.

Smoke Abatement.

Observations have been taken of certain chimneys in the area during the year. The amount of smoke given out was not such as to justify any formal action by the Council. Experiments are being made at certain premises in an attempt to reduce the amount and density of smoke emitted.

Swimming Baths.

There are none in the area at present.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Nine houses in the Westgate Clearance Area were fumigated on vacation, and tenants' furniture and effects treated with Hydrogen Cyanide Gas during removal to new houses on the Council Housing Estate. Eight houses belonging to a private owner were found to be infested and were treated by the same process, as were three Council houses. In each case the bedding was put through the steam disinfecter at the Colne and Holme Hospital. A private house, which was being temporarily used as a hostel, was found to be bug infested, and this was treated by Cemex Ltd. Later inspections of these houses have not shown any evidence of re-infestation.

Schools.

The following are the particulars relating to the water supply to the Schools in the area, viz. :—

Meltham	Water from Council's Main.
Meltham Mills ...	Do.
Helme... ..	Do.
Wilshaw	Water from Private Supply.

It has not been found necessary during the year to close any schools for the purpose of checking the spread of infectious disease.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

These have been visited during the year and found to be satisfactory.

H O U S I N G .

STATISTICS.

Number of new Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) )	... ..	20
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—		
(I) By the Local Authority...	... ..	5
(II) By other bodies or persons	... ..	0

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	148
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	37

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of the Local Authority or their Officers	37
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | | | | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | 9 |

D —Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

The fifteen new houses at Pick Hill Road were completed and occupied early in the year.

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| (II) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| (III) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75½ |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| (II) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16½ |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a).—MILK SUPPLY.

There are four Accredited producers in the area. The local Co-operative Society also sell sterilised milk. The supply and distribution of the milk is in the hands of the producers, the farmers, of whom 25 are producer-retailers and two dispose of their milk wholesale, and there are four retailers who sell milk produced outside the Urban District.

Alterations and improvements have been made in a number of cowsheds as the result of representations made by the Department.

Inspection of the dairies and cowsheds is carried out regularly. The Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Inspector also visits in connection with inspection of milch cows.

(b) MEAT, &c.

A regular system of meat inspection has been carried out, and the Sanitary Inspector inspects every animal slaughtered in the area. The following are particulars of the inspections:

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	365	70	12	1311	443
Number inspected	365	70	12	1311	443
All Diseases (excepting Tuberculosis) whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	5	—	5	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	3·83%	7·14%	—	0·45%	0·902%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	24	6	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.....	7·94%	8·57%	—	—	2·03%

Total weight Condemed	Beef.	Mutton.	Pork.
during year	4,683 lbs. ...	115 lbs. ...	178 lbs.

Visits have been paid to shops and stores in the district, and, generally speaking, these are well kept.

There are four bakehouses in the district. The premises have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and are clean and satisfactory.

There has been no reported case of Food Poisoning during the year.

(c).—ADULTERATION, &c.

The Council is not the Local Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, etc., etc.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made to obtain a supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin at the Isolation Hospital.

The recently developed artificial methods of immunization against diphtheria have been used both privately and by the County Council at Schools and Clinics.

Prevalence of disease at Schools is notified by the School Attendance Officer, and action taken.

The District was free from any serious outbreak of non-notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1939.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever... ..	3	3	0
Diphtheria... ..	3	3	0
Enteric Fever... ..	1	1	0
Erysipelas... ..	2	2	0
Pneumonia	8	0	2

ANALYSIS.

Under .	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-45	45 and over
Scarlet Fever.....	1	1	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria.....	1	1	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	1	—	2	—	5	—
Total	3	3	2	1	6	2

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year one death was registered in the district as due to Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

The notification of tuberculosis is satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Council maintain an Ambulance for use in accident cases and the removal of serious cases of non-infectious illness when certified to be necessary by a doctor.

An Ambulance for cases of infectious disease is run by the Colne and Holme Joint Hospital Board from the Hospital at Meltham.

In conclusion I should like to pay a tribute to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials for the assistance and courtesy extended to me during the year, and to the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation in my work.

I am,
Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

R. GELLATLY.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1939.

England and Wales,
London 126 Great
Towns and 148
Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administ'ive County	Meltham
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births—					
Live 	15·0	14·8	15·6	12·3	12·2
Still 	0·59	0·59	0·57	0·44	1·2
Deaths—					
All Causes 	12·1	12·0	11·2	11·9	15·8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers } Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Measles 	—	—	—	—	0·00
Scarlet Fever 	0·01	0·01	0·01	00·0	0·00
Whooping Cough 	0·01	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Diphtheria 	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03	0·00
Influenza 	0·05	0·05	0·04	0·02	0·00
	0·21	0·19	0·20	0·18	0·60
Notifications—					
Smallpox 	0·00	—	—	—	0·00
Scarlet Fever 	1·89	1·96	1·78	1·53	0·60
Diphtheria 	1·14	1·21	1·16	0·98	0·60
Enteric Fever 	0·04	0·03	0·04	0·03	0·20
Erysipelas 	0·34	0·40	0·31	0·37	0·40
Pneumonia 	1·02	1·21	0·89	0·99	1·60
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	50	53	40	48	65·67
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age }	4·6	6·3	3·0	8·2	0·00
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Sepsis... ...	0·77	} Not available			0·00
Others 	2·16				16·393
Total 	2·93				
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live & Still)				
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Sepsis... ...	0·74	} Not available			0·00
Others 	2·08				14·925
Total 	2·82				
Notifications—					
Puerperal Fever }	14·35	17·26	12·99	{ 3·31 14·22	
Puerperal Pyrexia }					

